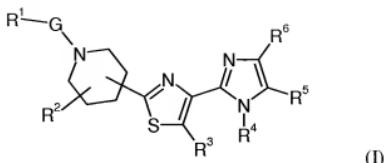


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

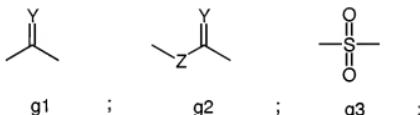
Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Compounds of the formula (I):



in which:

- G represents a bond or a divalent radical chosen from the groups g1, g2 and g3 below:



- R¹ is chosen from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, alkylcarbonyl or alkoxy carbonyl radical;
- R² and R³, which may be identical or different, are chosen, independently of each other, from a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl radical and a radical -NRR';
- R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶, which may be identical or different, are chosen, independently of each other, from a hydrogen atom and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl radical;
- R and R', which may be identical or different, represent, independently of each other, a hydrogen atom or a radical chosen from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl and heteroaryl; or together form, with the nitrogen atom that bears them, a heterocycle, or together form the double bond of an alken-1-yl radical;

- Y represents an oxygen or sulfur atom; and
- Z represents -NH- or an oxygen atom;

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, solvate, hydrate, pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base, ~~or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof.~~

2. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which the radical R² represents hydrogen or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, solvate, hydrate, ~~or pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base; or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof.~~

3. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which the radical R³ represents hydrogen or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, solvate, hydrate, ~~or pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base; or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof.~~

4. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which the radicals R⁴ and R⁵, independently of each other, represent an alkyl radical,

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, solvate, hydrate, ~~or pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base; or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof.~~

5. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which the radical R⁶ represents an aryl or heteroaryl radical

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, solvate, hydrate, ~~or pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base; or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof.~~

6. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which the thiazolyl radical is branched in position 3 or in position 4 of the piperidine nucleus, or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, solvate, hydrate, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which the thiazolyl radical is branched in position 4 of the piperidine nucleus, or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, solvate, hydrate, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which G represents the radical g1,

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, solvate, hydrate, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which G represents the radical g1 and Y represents an oxygen atom,

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, solvate, hydrate, pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which the radicals R² and R³ each represent a hydrogen atom, the radicals R⁴ and R⁵ represent, independently of each other, an alkyl radical, the radical R⁶ represents an aryl or heteroaryl radical, the thiazolyl radical is branched in position 4 of the piperidine nucleus, and G represents the radical g1 in which Y represents an oxygen atom,

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, solvate, hydrate,

pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which R¹ represents an aryl radical, especially phenyl, substituted by one or more aryl and/or alkyl radicals

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, solvate, hydrate, pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which R¹ represents a biphenyl radical, optionally substituted by one or more alkyl radicals, preferably methyl, ethyl or propyl, and/or with a perhaloalkyl or perhaloalkoxy radical,

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, solvate, hydrate, pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which G represents the radical g1, with Y representing an oxygen atom, R¹ represents a biphenyl radical, optionally substituted by one or more alkyl radicals, preferably methyl, ethyl or propyl, and/or a trifluoromethyl or trifluoromethoxy radical,

the other substituents being as defined above,

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, solvate, hydrate, pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, which is:

- {4-[4-(1,5-dimethyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)thiazol-2-yl]piperid-1-yl}(4'-trifluoromethylbiphenyl-2-yl)methanone;
- {4-[4-(1-ethyl-5-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)thiazol-2-yl]piperid-1-yl}(4'-

trifluoromethylbiphenyl-2-yl)methanone;

- {3-[4-(1-ethyl-5-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)thiazol-2-yl]piperid-1-yl}(4'-trifluoromethylbiphenyl-2-yl)methanone;

- {4-[4-(1-ethyl-5-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)thiazol-2-yl]piperid-1-yl}(6-methyl-4'-trifluoromethoxybiphenyl-2-yl)methanone;

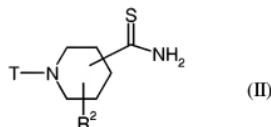
- {4-[4-(1-ethyl-5-methyl-4-(pyrid-3-yl)-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)thiazol-2-yl]piperid-1-yl}(4'-trifluoromethylbiphenyl-2-yl)methanone;

- {4-[4-(1-ethyl-5-methyl-4-(pyrid-2-yl)-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)thiazol-2-yl]piperid-1-yl}(4'-trifluoromethylbiphenyl-2-yl)methanone;

- {4-[4-(1-ethyl-5-methyl-4-(pyrid-2-yl)-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)thiazol-2-yl]piperid-1-yl}(6-methyl-4'-trifluoromethoxybiphenyl-2-yl)methanone;

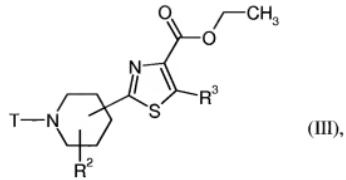
or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, solvate, hydrate, pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a compound according to Claim 1, comprising reacting a compound of the formula (II):

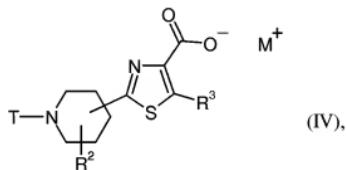


in which T represents a labile protecting group, with ethyl R³-bromopyruvate, in a polar solvent, in the presence of an excess of base, at a suitable temperature, for a period ranging from 1 to 40 hours,

so as to form a thiazolyl ring and a compound of the formula (III):

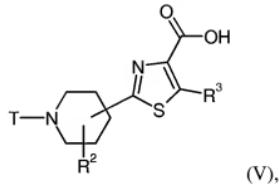


saponifying the compound of the formula (III) with an alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal hydroxide base, in polar medium, at room temperature, for a period of 1 to 12 hours, so as to form the salt of the formula (IV):

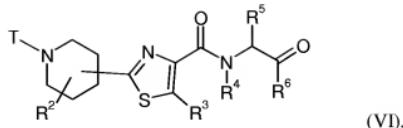


in which M^+ represents the alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal cation derived from the base that is used for the saponification reaction,

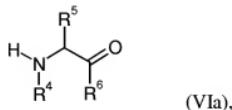
hydrolyzing the compound of the formula (IV) to a compound of the formula (V):



converting the compound of the formula (V) to a corresponding amide of the formula (VI):

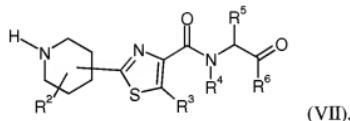


via the action of an amine of the formula (VIIa):

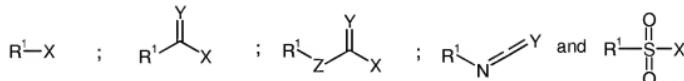


in the presence of a base, and a catalyst, in a polar aprotic solvent, at room temperature, for 1 to 50 hours,

deprotecting of the amine function of the piperidine ring of VI, via the action of an organic or mineral acid, in dichloromethane or dioxane medium, at room temperature, for a few minutes to several hours, to give the compound of the formula (VII):



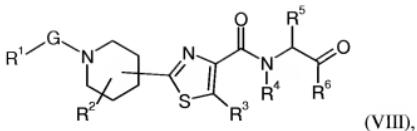
subjecting said compound VII to the action of



in which X represents a halogen atom,

in the presence of a base, and a catalyst, in a polar aprotic solvent, at room temperature, for 1 to 50 hours,

to give the compound of the formula (VIII):



and subjecting VIII to a cyclization reaction to form the imidazole ring, in the presence of a cyclizing agent, acting as a solvent, at a suitable temperature for 5 and 15 minutes, to give the compound of the formula (I) as defined in Claim 1.

16. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of the formula (I) according to Claim 1, in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable vehicles.

17. (Previously Presented) A method for the treatment of diabetes-related hypertriglyceridaemia, hypercholesterolaemia, dyslipidaemia, or for prevention or treatment of obesity, comprising administering to a host in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.